

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /166 W
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R 061725Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7748

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE MU

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T LONDON 01686

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SOVIET INCREASES SINCE 1968

REF: (A) VIENNA 0967, (B) STATE 17468, (C) STATE 21244

1. DEPUTY HEAD FCO WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT
MCLAREN CALLED US IN TODAY TO REITERATE UK POSITION ON
DESIRABILITY OF USING INCREASE IN SOVIET FORCES SINCE
1968 AS NEGOTIATING POINT IN MBFR. HE NOTED THAT UK
EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE DEMARCHE
TO ACDA AND STATE ON SAME POINT.

2. MCLAREN EMPHASIZED THAT HMG WANTS ONLY TO INCLUDE
GENERAL PERCENTAGES IN NEXT ALLIED PLENARY STATEMENT TO
EFFECT THAT IF ONE LOOKS BACK OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS --
THE SIX YEARS SINCE THE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS FIRST PRO-
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POSED FORCE REDUCTION TALKS -- THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY

NO CHANGE IN THE NUMBERS OF NATO GROUND FORCES BUT THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE OF 15 PERCENT IN WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCES AND 30 PERCENT IN SOVIET GROUND FORCES.

3. MCLAREN RECOGNIZED THAT U.S. HAD GIVEN A LIST OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST USE OF THE 1968 COMPARISON (REF B) AND (REF C) BUT HE FELT THAT HMG HAD COUNTERED WITH LOGICAL ANSWERS TO EACH. HE RAN THROUGH POSITION TAKEN BY ROSE AT FEB 4 TRILATERAL (REF A).

4. IMPORTANT POINT HERE IS THAT HMG IS MAKING A SIGNIFICANT EFFORT TO GET USG ACCEPTANCE OF USE OF DATA. MCLAREN SAID THAT WHILE ORIGINAL POSITION HAD BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT CONSULTING MINISTERS, TELEGRAMS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND MINISTERS SUPPORT THE EFFORT. THIS MEANS THAT FCO NOW HAS POLITICAL LEVEL SUPPORT IN PUSHING FOR USE OF DATA.

5. MCLAREN'S ONLY CONCESSION TO U.S. POLICY WAS THAT HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NATURE OF 1968 DATA POSES SOME PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF COMPARABILITY WITH 1973 DATA (1968 DATA IS NOT AS FIRM) AND OTHER PROBLEMS RELATED TO INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OF DATA. BUT HE FELT THAT USE OF ROUGH PERCENTAGES SUGGESTED BY HMG WOULD EASE BOTH PROBLEMS.

6. MCLAREN SHOWED US RECENT TELEGRAM FROM UK EMBASSY WASHINGTON REPORTING SOME OPTIMISM THAT U.S. MAY CHANGE ITS POSITION ON THIS ISSUE TO ALLOW USE OF PERCENTAGES IN MBFR. HOWEVER, UK EMBASSY CAUTIONED THAT U.S. PROBABLY WOULD AGREE ONLY TO "ONE SHOT" USE OF THE MATERIAL AND IN A MUCH FUZZIER FORMAT THAN DESIRED BY HMG.

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